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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the eighteenth session (4-8 May 2015)

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Summary

At its eighteenth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development discussed the role of science and technology within the context of the post-2015 development agenda and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. In addition, it considered two priority themes, "Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Digital development", and held panel discussions on the two themes. The session also included a segment on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

Two ministerial round tables were convened during the session, one on the theme "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: the role of science, technology and innovation", and another on the theme "Ten-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society".

The Chair's summary of the discussion on the theme "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: the role of science, technology and innovation" (E/2015/78) is transmitted to the high-level segment of the 2015 session of the Economic and Social Council, to be held in July 2015 on the theme "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what it will take?"

During the discussions on the theme, participants noted the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development. Likewise, they recognized the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of a number of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the role of science, technology and innovation, and of information and communications technologies (ICTs) as enablers of the post-2015 development agenda.

The participants shared national success stories in harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation and ICTs as tools for stimulating inclusive and sustainable growth and development. They agreed that the success of using technology and innovation policies is facilitated by, among other measures, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth. In this regard, they stressed the need for new approaches that embed policies on science, technology and innovation as crucial components of national development plans.

Accordingly, participants called upon Governments to strengthen local innovation capabilities as a means of fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development. They recommended closely linking science, technology and innovation, and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in science, technology and innovation and ICTs in national planning. Likewise, Governments were encouraged to bring together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge; this effort could include collaboration with and among national programmes. Finally, participants highlighted the need to reduce barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, as well as the need to integrate a gender perspective into development policies and programmes.

Pursuant to paragraph 57 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/27, the Commission organized a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and is reporting thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015 (see annex II).

In addressing the priority theme "Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda", an expert panel discussed the potential role of strategic foresight in the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals. There was wide acknowledgement that technology foresight exercises could help policymakers and stakeholders in the future implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, through the identification of development challenges and opportunities that could be addressed strategically.

Participants encouraged Governments, individually and collectively, to undertake systemic research, including foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation and ICT, and their impact on development, in particular in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Furthermore, the participants recommended using strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long term, and addressing such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and vocational training. Particular attention was given to the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and STEM education in particular, and the need to attract and retain women and girls in STEM fields.

The participants agreed that strategic foresight should be used as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of Government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector (in particular small and medium-sized enterprises), and that these debates could help to create a shared understanding of long-term issues and build consensus on future policies. Governments were also encouraged to undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects.

The participants called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to act as a forum for strategic planning and for providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation and ICTs in key sectors of the economy, drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies. Likewise, participants requested that the Commission raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships between various technology foresight organizations, in collaboration with other stakeholders, with the objective of improving international cooperation in emerging technology foresight tools and methodologies.

In considering the priority theme "Digital development", the expert panel analysed the emerging changes in the digital development landscape with regard to digital technologies, digital demographics and development priorities, including the seminal role of digital development in sustainable development. The panellists agreed that a well-developed digital ecosystem, involving components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure, is a primary requirement for effective digital development.

As a result, participants called upon national Governments to conduct assessments of national innovation systems, including the digital ecosystem, to identify weaknesses and make effective policy interventions to strengthen the weaker components. Likewise, Governments were encouraged to put in place policies that would provide support for the development of digital ecosystems that are inclusive and encourage the development of local content and attract and support private investment, innovation and entrepreneurship. The participants highlighted the need for Governments to encourage digital natives to play a key role in community-based approaches to capacity-building for science, technology and innovation, and to facilitate the use of ICTs in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Under the agenda item on science, technology and innovation policy reviews, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) presented the science, technology and innovation review of Thailand to the Commission. The review was undertaken in collaboration with the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office of Thailand. Participants congratulated Thailand for having undertaken this exercise of assessment and evaluation of its science, technology and innovation policies and commended UNCTAD for the quality of the report, the usefulness of its recommendations and the relevance of the review programme for developing countries.

An exchange of views took place following the presentation of the science, technology and innovation policy review of Thailand, which enabled participants to discuss the policy issues highlighted in the review, as well as their own national experiences using science, technology and innovation to promote growth and development. One policy issue the participants discussed was the importance of implementing programmes that promote the commercialization of research outcomes. Comments also focused on the need for both policy continuity and monitoring and evaluation to transition from a natural-resource-based economy to one that is based on innovation, because developing a globally competitive economy requires years, if not decades, of deliberate policy choices supported by strategic investments aimed at building strong science, technology and innovation capacity. Participants agreed that investments were typically required in education and training (particularly in STEM), science, technology and innovation infrastructure and programmes, research and development.

With regard to developing an economy based on innovation, participants stressed the importance of establishing effective institutional frameworks to promote the development of science, technology and innovation. Fostering public-private collaboration, especially among industry, research and Government, was seen as critical for success, as was international collaboration and support. Some participants addressed the issue of decentralization of science, technology and innovation policy, arguing that it could help to reduce capacity divides and inequalities among regions. Finally, a few participants reported that their countries were implementing or planning to implement a review of their national science, technology and innovation policies and expressed interest in undertaking science, technology and innovation review in collaboration with UNCTAD.

In chapter I of the present report, the Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of two draft resolutions, one on science and technology for development and another on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. The Commission also recommends to the Council for adoption five draft decisions, in which the Council would extend for a further five years the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board, as well as arrangements for the participation of non-State stakeholders in the work of the Commission, and would take note of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session and approve the provisional agenda and documentation for its nineteenth session. The Commission selected "Smart cities and infrastructure" and "Foresight for digital development" as the two priority themes for consideration at its nineteenth session. It will identify and consider specific aspects of the themes at the forthcoming meeting of the intersessional panel.

Further information on the session of the Commission is available at www.unctad.org/cstd.

[26 May 2015]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2014/27 of 16 July 2014 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/204 of 19 December 2014 on information and communications technologies for development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/302 of 31 July 2014 on the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Digital development",[3]

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

[2] A/70/63-E/2015/10.

[3] E/CN.16/2015/2.

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1] emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

2. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

3. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

5. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component;

6. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit and, to that end, requested the Council, at its substantive session of 2006, to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission, including considering strengthening the Commission, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding in Geneva, from 9 to 13 June 2014, of the high-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, and its two outcome documents: a statement on the implementation of World Summit outcomes and a vision for the World Summit beyond 2015;

8. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

9. *Welcomes* the progress highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, in particular the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants should have access to information and communications technologies within their reach and make use of them by the end of 2016, in line with one of the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, m-agriculture, mobile transactions, m-government, e-government, e-business and development services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

10. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital divide;

11. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

12. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

13. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

14. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and

communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

15. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital divide is also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

16. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, entitled "The state of broadband 2014: broadband for all", and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

17. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

18. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

19. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, cybersecurity, the gender gap, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services are essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

Internet governance

21. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening

of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

22. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[4]

Enhanced cooperation

23. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

24. *Also recognizes* that the process towards enhanced cooperation, to be started by the Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation; that relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and being responsive to innovation; and that the same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports;

25. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195 of 21 December 2012, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of the World Summit regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders, and to make recommendations on how to fully implement that mandate, and requested the working group to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit;

26. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 67/195, the General Assembly requested the Chair of the Commission to ensure that the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation had balanced representation between Governments, from the five regional groups of the Commission, and invitees from all other stakeholders, namely, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities and intergovernmental and international organizations, drawn equally from developing and developed countries;

27. *Notes* that the Working Group held four meetings between May 2013 and May 2014, at which it examined the mandate of enhanced cooperation by issuing a questionnaire and seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders for the purpose of developing draft recommendations, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/195;

28. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation of the Commission,[5] and expresses its gratitude to the Chair and

[4] See A/60/687.

[5] E/CN.16/2014/CRP.3.

members and other stakeholders that submitted inputs and contributed to the work of the Working Group;

29. *Notes* that consensus emerged on certain issues while a wide divergence of opinions persisted in a number of other issues that prevented the Working Group from making recommendations on how to fully implement enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, as stipulated in the mandate given to the Working Group by the General Assembly in resolution 67/195;

30. *Also notes* the work initiated by the Working Group to review the identified international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, list where there are existing international mechanisms addressing these issues, identify the status of mechanisms, if any, and whether they are addressing the issues, and attempt to identify gaps in order to ascertain what type of recommendations may be required;

31. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 2014/27, the Council recommended that this work may be further continued by the secretariat of the Commission with a view to the submission of findings to the Commission at its intersessional meeting for further discussion and their integration into the 10-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its eighteenth session;

Internet Governance Forum

32. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

33. *Also recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

34. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 69/204, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit, information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission,[6] particularly on enhancing the participation of developing countries;

35. *Notes* the holding of the ninth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Turkey in Istanbul from 2 to 5 September 2014, under the main theme, entitled "Connecting continents for enhanced multi-stakeholder Internet governance";

36. *Welcomes* the holding of the tenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Brazil and scheduled to take place in João Pessoa from 10 to 13 November 2015, and notes that, in the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations from the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum have been taken into consideration;

[6] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1.

37. *Also welcomes* the offer of Mexico to host the eleventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2016, subject to the decision by the General Assembly on the renewal of the mandate of the Forum;

The road ahead

38. *Notes* the substantive discussion on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit during the eighteenth session of the Commission, held from 4 to 8 May 2015, and the concluded work of the Commission of collecting input from all facilitators and stakeholders as part of the preparations for its 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and recalls its requests to the Commission to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

39. *Also notes* the holding of the event, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union, entitled "High-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit", as an extended version of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, in Geneva, from 10 to 13 June 2014;

40. *Further notes* the holding of a 10-year review event of the World Summit, entitled "Towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development", coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Paris, from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the final statement of the event;

41. *Notes* the holding of the fifth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Policy Forum on international Internet-related public policy matters, in Geneva, from 14 to 16 May 2013, and its output opinions;

42. *Also notes* the holding of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union and hosted by the Government of Costa Rica in San José, from 9 to 11 September 2013, and its declaration;

43. *Urges* United Nations entities still not actively cooperating in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[7]

44. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divide among and within countries;

45. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband

[7] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divide;

46. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

47. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[8]

48. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review and modify the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) Notes with appreciation the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(b) Also notes the holding, in Tbilisi, from 24 to 26 November 2014, of the twelfth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium;

(c) Encourages Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, so as to be able to respond satisfactorily to surveys such as the World Summit targets survey, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(d) Encourages United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on poverty and in key sectors to identify the knowledge and skills needed to boost impacts;

(e) Calls upon international development partners to provide financial support to further facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance in developing countries;

49. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United States of America to this fund;

50. *Recalls* paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, in which the General Assembly was requested to make an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015, and paragraph 106, according to which the World Summit implementation and follow-up should be an integral part of the United Nations integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

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[8] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

51. *Also recalls* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/195, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its role in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, to be held by the end of 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda;

52. *Further recalls* paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013, in which the Assembly decided to finalize the modalities of the overall review as early as possible, and invited the President of the Assembly to appoint two co-facilitators to convene open intergovernmental consultations for that purpose;

53. *Recommends* that, consistent with the World Summit process and subject to the decision by the General Assembly, an appropriate preparatory process be launched, drawing from the experience of the two phases of the World Summit;

54. *Notes* the role of the Commission, set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

55. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report on the stocktaking of activities related to the World Summit, which serves as one of the valuable tools for assisting with the follow-up, beyond the conclusion of the Tunis phase of the World Summit;

56. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

57. *Recalls* paragraph 57 of Council resolution 2014/27, in which the Council requested the Commission to invite further inputs from Member States and all facilitators and stakeholders and to organize, during its eighteenth session, in 2015, a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

58. *Recalls further* paragraph 48 of Council resolution 2013/9, in which the Council requested the Commission to submit, after its eighteenth session, the results of its 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015;

59. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission at its eighteenth session,[9] including a summary of the substantive discussion on the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit alongside a link to the interventions made in that regard, and decides to forward it to the preparatory process of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

60. *Also takes note* of the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, entitled *Implementing World*

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 11* (E/2015/31).

Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review, which was the basis for the substantive discussion, and decides to submit it also to the preparatory process of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly as an input for its deliberations;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on a yearly basis, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in the other Council resolutions on the assessment of the quantitative and qualitative progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit;

62. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divide, taking into account considerations of gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups;

63. *Also emphasizes* the importance of information and communications technologies for development, and considers that it should be reflected as appropriate in the post-2015 development agenda.

Draft resolution II
Science, technology and innovation for development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 66/129 of 19 December 2011 and 66/211 and 66/216 of 22 December 2011 addressing, respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation in the achievement of a number of Millennium Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation as an enabler of the post-2015 development agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Taking note of the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals[2] and the implications of the same for the global science, technology and innovation community,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[2] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

Taking note also of the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet",[3] which identifies technology, science and innovation as means to implement the sustainable development agenda,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Digital development",

Noting the need for new approaches that embed science, technology and innovation policies and capacity-building as crucial components of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between sectoral ministries, science, technology and innovation and information and communications technology agencies and a range of regulatory bodies,

Recognizing that technology foresight exercises could help policymakers and stakeholders in the future implementation of the post-2015 development agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in mind the wider socioeconomic context,

Recognizing also that a well-developed digital ecosystem[4] is a primary requirement for effective digital development and the facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing further the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest, and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and

[3] A/69/700.

[4] The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

engineering knowledge, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To undertake systemic research, including foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

(iv) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long term and addressing such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and vocational training;

(v) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of Government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises), towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues and building consensus on future policies;

(vi) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(vii) To conduct assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, to identify weaknesses of the system and make effective policy interventions to strengthen its weaker components, while recognizing the interlinkages between its diverse components;

(viii) To mobilize resources through multiple channels to strengthen the national innovation system for science, technology and innovation;

(ix) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

(x) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, that are inclusive and that encourage the development of local content and attract and support private investment, innovation and entrepreneurship;

(xi) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, to improve environmental sustainability and encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste;

(xii) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields;

(xiii) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology

transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions, and technical training programmes or courses;

(b) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;

(ii) To help articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology, innovation and engineering as enablers in the future post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning and providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies;

(iii) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships between various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, with the objectives of improving international cooperation in emerging technology foresight tools and methodologies, sharing experiences and best practices and organizing training programmes and collaborative projects such as on the future of work, science, technology and innovation skills and the future employability of science, technology and innovation professionals;

(iv) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(v) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (a) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (b) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(vi) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to attract new sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(vii) To promote capacity-building and cooperation in research and development;

(viii) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities;

(ix) To play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(x) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Millennium Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, taking into account that 2015 is a year of transition to the post-2015 development agenda;

(c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(iv) To encourage the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council decides to extend the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for a further five years, beginning on 1 January 2016, in order to allow it to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for this purpose.

Draft decision II
Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and its decisions 2008/217 of 18 July 2008, 2010/226 of 19 July 2010 and 2011/236 of 26 July 2011, and recognizing the need to maximize the meaningful participation of and contributions by civil society in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has benefited from the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in its work;

(b) Decides, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to extend to non-governmental organizations and civil society entities that are not in consultative status with the Council but that received accreditation to the World Summit on the Information Society an invitation to participate in the work of the Commission until 2020;

(c) Urges that voluntary contributions be made in order to provide the maximum possible assistance for the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities from developing countries and to ensure the balanced representation of such organizations and entities, including in the panels of the Commission;

(d) Invites the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider as expeditiously as possible the applications of such organizations and entities, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

(e) Decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(f) Also decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

Draft decision III
Participation of academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and its decisions 2008/218 of 18 July 2008, 2010/227 of 19 July 2010 and 2011/237 of 26 July 2011, recognizing the need to maximize the meaningful participation of and contributions by academic entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and having reviewed the current modalities for the participation of such entities:

(a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has benefited from the participation of academic entities in its work;

(b) Decides to extend the current arrangements for the participation of academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission until 2020;

(c) Also decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(d) Further decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

Draft decision IV
Participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and its decisions 2007/216 of 26 April 2007, 2010/228 of 19 July 2010 and 2011/238 of 26 July 2011, recognizing the need to maximize the meaningful participation of and contributions by business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and having reviewed the current modalities for the participation of such entities:

(a) Acknowledges that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development has benefited from the participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in its work;

(b) Decides to extend the current arrangements for the participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission until 2020;

(c) Also decides that, while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved;

(d) Further decides that every effort should be made by the Commission, in collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation, including by providing assistance on a voluntary basis, of all stakeholders from developing countries, including non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations and development actors.

Draft decision V
Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eighteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the nineteenth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eighteenth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the nineteenth session of the Commission as set out below.

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

3. Science and technology for development:

   Priority themes:

   (a) Smart cities and infrastructure;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

   (b) Foresight for digital development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twentieth session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

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* For the discussion, see chaps. VI and VII.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 11* (E/2015/31).

Decision 18/101
Documents considered by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its eighteenth session

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on digital development (E/CN.16/2015/2).

Chapter II

Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

4. The Commission considered item 2 of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 9th meetings, on 4, 5, 7 and 8 May 2015. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/70/63-E/2015/10);

(b) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the intersessional panel meeting held in Geneva from 26 to 28 November 2014 (E/CN.16/2015/CRP.1);

(c) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD on the mapping of international Internet public policy issues (E/CN.16/2015/CRP.2 and Add.1);

(d) Report prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD, *Implementing World Summit on Information Society Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review* (UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2015/3).

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 May, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD introduced the report of the Secretary-General.

6. At the same meeting, keynote addresses were given by Adama Samassékou, President of the Preparatory Committee of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and Janis Karklins, President of the Preparatory Committee of the second phase of the World Summit.

Ministerial round table on the topic "Ten-year review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes"

7. Also at the 2nd meeting, on 4 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the topic "Ten-year review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes", moderated by the Chair, Omobola Johnson (Nigeria), in which the following participants took part: Zohra Derdouri, Minister of Postal Technologies, Information and Communication of Algeria; Daniel Sepulveda, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and United States Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy of the Department of State Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; Godfrey Malama, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Zambia; and Philipp Metzger, Director of the Federal Offices of Communications of Switzerland.

8. An interactive dialogue ensued with the delegations of Cuba and Mexico, as well as the observer of the European Union.

9. The following non-governmental organizations also took part: the International Chamber of Commerce and the Internet Society.

10. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 5 May, the Commission held a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, pursuant to paragraph 57 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/27, and heard statements by the representatives of Brazil, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Canada, Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of

Iran, the Russian Federation, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, China, Austria, the United States of America, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Zambia, Cameroon, Australia, South Africa, Latvia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Mauritania.

11. At the same meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

12. Also at the same meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: the Internet Society, the Association for Progressive Communications, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, ICT for Peace, the International Chamber of Commerce-Business Action to Support the Information Society, and IT for Change.

13. At the 4th meeting, the Chair made a statement, following which statements were made by the representatives of Australia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

14. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer of the European Union.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Chair, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD and the Secretary of the Commission provided clarification with regard to the questions raised.

16. At the 4th meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chair, Peter Major (Hungary).

17. Also at the 4th meeting, following a statement by the Chair, the Commission agreed, pursuant to provisions contained in paragraph 57 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/27, to report to the General Assembly through the Council (see annex II to the present report) on its substantive discussion of the 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit.

Action taken by the Commission

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

18. At its 9th meeting, on 8 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", submitted by the Vice-Chair (Hungary) on the basis of informal consultations and circulated in an informal paper in English only.

19. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission provided clarification with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution and responded to inquiries by the delegations.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Chair made a statement.

21. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III
Science and technology for development

Priority themes:

(a) Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda

(b) Digital development

22. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st, 5th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 4, 6, 7 and 8 May. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on digital development (E/CN.16/2015/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.16/2015/3).

23. At the 5th meeting, on 6 May, introductory remarks were made by the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD and Head of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development secretariat.

24. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Science and Technology Section, Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD, made a statement and introduced the reports of the Secretary-General.

Ministerial round table
"Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, the role of science, technology and innovation"

25. At the 1st and 2nd meetings, on 4 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the topic "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, the role of science, technology and innovation", moderated by the Chair (Nigeria), in which the following participants took part: Héctor Casanueva, Permanent Representative of Chile to the World Trade Organization; Pascal Nguihé Kanté, Head of the Division of the Promotion and Dissemination of the Results of Research, Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation of Cameroon; Ligia Amada Melo de Cardona, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Dominican Republic; Bruno Jean Richard Itoua, Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of the Congo; Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Science and Technology of Thailand; Kamran Ali-Qureshi, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology of Pakistan; Hilal Al-Hinai, Chair of the Research Council of Oman; Patrick K. Nkanza, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education of Zambia; Mohammed Jibrin, Director General and Chief Executive Officer, National Board for Technology Incubation of Nigeria; Frances Colón, Acting Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State of the United States of America; João Sebastião Teta, Secretary of State for Science and Technology of Angola; and Azhari Abdelbagi, Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Sudan.

26. The delegations of Uganda, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and China, as well as the observer for the European Union, also took part in the interactive discussion that ensued.

27. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD made introductory remarks.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Commission agreed to transmit the Chair's summary of the discussion of the ministerial round table (E/2015/78) to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, to be held from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Panel discussion: science and technology for development

29. At its 5th meeting, on 6th May, statements were made by Sergio Bitar, Senior Fellow, Inter-American Dialogue, and Former Minister of Public Works, Education and Mining of Chile, and Shirley Malcom, Head of the Directorate of Education and Human Resources of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and member of the Gender Advisory Board.

30. At the same meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion on science and technology for development, moderated by the Chair (Nigeria). Presentations were made by: Geci Karuri-Sebina, Chair of the South African Node at The Millennium Project; Michael Heister, Head of the Department for Vocational Teaching and Learning, National Programmes and Development Programmes, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany; Raul Katz, Director of Business Strategy Research, Institute for Tele-Information, Columbia University; Mark Graham, Senior Research Fellow and Associate Professor, Oxford Internet Institute; and Maurizio Bona, Adviser to the Director-General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

31. An interactive discussion ensued, in which the panellists responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Kenya, India, Hungary, Mexico, Thailand, Canada, Austria and the United States of America.

32. A statement was also made by the observer for the European Union.

Action taken by the Commission

Science, technology and innovation for development

33. At its 8th meeting, on 8 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development", submitted by the Vice-Chair, Victoria Romero (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations and circulated in English only.

34. A statement was made by the facilitator of the draft resolution, Victoria Romero (Mexico).

35. The Secretary of the Commission provided clarification with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

36. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Draft decision proposed by the Chair

37. At its 8th meeting, on 8 May, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda (E/CN.16/2015/3).

Chapter IV

Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

38. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 6 May.

Presentation of the science, technology and innovation policy review of Thailand

39. Introductory remarks were made by Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

40. A presentation was made by the representative of the UNCTAD secretariat.

41. A presentation was also made by Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Science and Technology of Thailand.

42. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Finland, Germany, China, Japan and the Philippines, as well as by the observer for Singapore.

43. Comments were also made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon and Austria, as well as the observer for Morocco.

Chapter V

Election of the Chair and other officers for the nineteenth session of the Commission

44. The Com Adama Samassékou Adama Samassékoumission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 8th meeting, on 8 May.

45. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its nineteenth session:

Chair:
Peter Major (Hungary)

Vice-Chairs:
A. Min Tjoa (Austria)
Maxwell Otim Onapa (Uganda)

46. The Commission postponed the election of the Vice-Chairs from the Asia-Pacific States and the Latin American and Caribbean States.

47. The Commission also postponed the election of the Rapporteur to its nineteenth session.

Chapter VI
Provisional agenda and documentation for the nineteenth session of the Commission

48. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 8th meeting, on 8 May. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its nineteenth session.

49. A statement was made by the representative of Japan.

50. The Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its nineteenth session and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session

51. At its 9th meeting, on 8 May, the Commission had before it the draft report on its eighteenth session (E/CN.16/2015/L.1).

52. The Rapporteur, Andrew Reynolds (United States of America), introduced the draft report.

53. The Commission adopted the draft report on its eighteenth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

54. Following the adoption of the report, comments were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brazil, the Russian Federation, China, Saudi Arabia and Germany.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

55. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its eighteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 to 8 May 2015. The Commission held nine meetings (1st to 9th).

56. The session was opened by the Vice-Chair, Andrew Reynolds (United States of America), who also made a statement.

57. The Chair, Omobola Johnson (Nigeria), made opening remarks.

58. At the 1st meeting, on 4 May, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD made an opening statement.

59. At the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council (Austria) addressed the Commission (via video message).

60. Also at the same meeting, the following speakers addressed the Commission: Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, ITU; Samuel Ting, Professor and Nobel Laureate, Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Fadi Chehadé, Chief Executive Officer, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; Indrajit Banerjee, Director of the Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO; and Robin Mansell, Professor, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics.

B. Attendance

61. The session was attended by representatives of 43 States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and representatives of civil society and business entities also attended. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2015/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

62. At its 8th meeting of its seventeenth session, on 16 May 2014, the Commission had elected the following members of the Bureau of its eighteenth session by acclamation:

Chair:

Omobola Johnson (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs:

Peter Major (Hungary)
Victoria Romero (Mexico)
Majed Almazyed (Saudi Arabia)
Andrew Reynolds (United States of America)

63. At its 1st meeting, on 4 May 2015, the Commission appointed Andrew Reynolds (United States of America) to serve, in addition to serving as Vice-Chair, as Rapporteur of the eighteenth session of the Commission.

64. Since the membership of Saudi Arabia in the Commission expired on 31 December 2014, Majed Almazyed could no longer carry out the functions as Vice-Chair.

D. Agenda and organization of work

65. At its 1st meeting, on 4 May, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.16/2015/1 and Corr.1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.
3. Science and technology for development:

   Priority themes:

   (a) Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda;

   (b) Digital development.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the nineteenth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the nineteenth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session.

66. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work, as contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

67. Also at the same meeting, the Commission appointed Victoria Romero (Mexico) to facilitate the draft resolution on "Science and technology for development" and Peter Major (Hungary) to facilitate the draft resolution on "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", and Andrew Reynolds (United States of America) was appointed as the facilitator of the draft decisions before the Commission.

E. Documentation

68. The list of documents before the Commission at its eighteenth session is contained in annex I to the present report.

Annex I

List of documents before the Commission at its eighteenth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2015/1 and Corr.1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
A/70/63-E/2015/10	2	Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
E/CN.16/2015/2	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on digital development
E/CN.16/2015/3	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda
E/CN.16/2015/L.1	7	Draft report of the Commission on its eighteenth session
E/CN.16/2015/CRP.1	2	Report of the Intersessional Panel Meeting (26-28 November 2014)
E/CN.16/2015/CRP.2 and Add.1	2	Mapping of international Internet public policy issues
UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2015/3	2	*Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review*
E/CN.16/2015/INF/1		List of participants

Annex II

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, held during its eighteenth session

Introduction

1. Pursuant to paragraph 57 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/27 of 16 July 2014, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was requested to organize, during its eighteenth session (4-8 May 2015), a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it makes an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015. The present report is provided in compliance with that request.

Round table

2. A ministerial round table on the topic "Ten-year review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes" was convened during the afternoon of 4 May 2015. The round table began with keynote addresses by the Presidents of the preparatory committees of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit in 2003 and 2005, respectively. In their addresses, the Presidents stressed the challenges of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunity, guaranteeing the protection of cultural and linguistic diversity in the information society, accelerating progress towards the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring the mainstreaming of information and communications technologies (ICTs) into the sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda. They emphasized a number of issues, including infrastructure development, affordability, knowledge management, education and capacity-building, multilingualism, human rights and cybersecurity. In their contributions, the Presidents noted the importance of placing development at the heart of the information society and of understanding its evolution in the context of rapidly changing technology, and the exponential deployment and application of ICTs, which were currently very different from those at the time of the Summit.

3. During the ensuing open discussion, participants noted that, while great progress had been made in increasing access to ICTs and meeting the goals set out at the World Summit, substantial divides remained in connectivity and access between and within developed and developing countries. Attention was drawn, in that context, to the extensive evidence provided in the report of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), entitled *Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review*. Several speakers identified areas in which their countries had achieved significant progress, including interconnected Government, cybersecurity and ICT-enabled social and economic development. In addition, participants discussed the new opportunities presented by

changing technology and the spread of ICTs, as well as challenges such as cybercrime, child protection, privacy and the protection of personal data, and the importance of ensuring an enabling environment for ICT development.

4. The importance of democratic, accountable and inclusive Internet governance was stressed by a number of speakers. Participants welcomed progress towards multi-stakeholder cooperation and dialogue in Internet governance, and many called for extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum. Some participants also emphasized the importance of international cooperation in leveraging the benefits of innovation and meeting the challenges of ICTs, thereby achieving continued progress towards the World Summit's vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

Substantive discussion

5. Consistent with Council resolution 2014/27, on 5 May 2015, a full day was devoted to substantive discussion on progress in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit. The Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD opened the session by highlighting the aforementioned report, *Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Ten-year Review*. The report was compiled from sources that included consultations with, and submissions from, United Nations agencies, Governments and other stakeholders; other 10-year review of the World Summit processes and outcome documents, including those from the high-level event on the 10-year review, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and organized in collaboration with UNCTAD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and held in Geneva from 10 to 13 June 2014; the review event, entitled "Towards knowledge societies for peace and sustainable development", organized by UNESCO, in collaboration with ITU, UNDP and UNCTAD, and held in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013; as well as other published sources. The report presented detailed information on the implementation of the World Summit vision, targets and action lines, commitments concerning financial mechanisms and Internet governance and the implementation of multi-stakeholder cooperation and dialogue.

6. Participants thanked the secretariat for preparing the report and for the comprehensive presentation of evidence included in it. They drew on the report and their own experiences in a wide-ranging discussion of different aspects of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the developing information society. Many emphasized that, while considerable progress had been made in increasing access to ICTs and reducing the digital divide in basic services, there was evidence of continued and, in some cases, growing digital divides in many areas that were of great importance to maximizing the value of ICTs for development, including connectivity and affordable access to broadband services. Concern was expressed about the divide between developed and developing countries, the needs of least developed countries, the importance of continuing to address the gender divide and the need to ensure full inclusiveness in the information society, including for economically and socially marginalized groups.

7. A number of participants stressed that, while infrastructure was essential to the development of the information society, infrastructure alone could not achieve the

goals of the World Summit. In achieving the human development goals of the outcome documents of the Summit, priority also needed to be given to education and capacity-building, to the development of local and multilingual content and to the affordability of access and services. The role of Governments in providing an enabling environment for investment and innovation in the provision of services was emphasized, as was the role of the private sector and development partners in financing infrastructure, developing applications and building local human capacity. Participants also drew attention to ethical and rights aspects of the information society, including access, freedom of expression and privacy.

8 It was noted that the outcome documents of the World Summit continued to provide a solid foundation for shaping the information society, putting the Summit's vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society at the heart of the overall review. It was also noted that the vision set out at the Summit was still valid. At the same time, participants recognized the significance of rapid change and innovation in the ICT environment since the convening of the Summit, including the development of mobile Internet capabilities, social media, cloud computing, big data and the "Internet of Things". These developments had opened up many new opportunities, while also bringing new challenges that needed to be addressed. Those opportunities and challenges should prompt the international community to reflect on priorities and to adjust the course of implementation of the outcomes of the Summit, where appropriate, without reopening decisions that had been taken at the Summit.

9. Many participants recognized the role of ICTs as important tools and enablers for inclusive social and economic development, with the capacity to provide solutions to development challenges that might be difficult to address through conventional approaches. In that context, a number of speakers emphasized the importance of mainstreaming ICTs into the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, and called for synergies to be identified between the 10-year review of the World Summit and those processes.

Internet governance and enhanced cooperation

10. There was considerable discussion on the topics of Internet governance and enhanced cooperation identified during the second phase of the World Summit. Various views were expressed concerning the process towards enhanced cooperation to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. Some participants were of the view that there had been little progress in achieving this objective, in particular concerning the equal participation of Governments, and that the overall review should provide clear guidance concerning its operationalization. Others were of the opinion that substantial progress had already been achieved.

11. Many participants noted that the Internet Governance Forum had been successful in bringing together diverse stakeholders on an annual basis, facilitating substantive, topical workshops and networking, and fostering dialogue concerning various aspects of Internet governance. Several delegates noted that the Forum could be further strengthened and that further improvements could be made in its work, in particular with regard to its effectiveness, inclusiveness and the nature of its outcomes. In that context, some delegates noted the Working Group on

Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission, which provided recommendations in 2012 and the fact that many of those measures had been gradually implemented. A number of delegates called for the extension of the mandate of the Forum, and some hoped that it would be made permanent.

12. Other recent developments in Internet governance were also referred to during the discussion. In particular, activities within the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers were welcomed by some participants as an important new stage in Internet governance.

13. Some participants felt that there was still work to do in the area of Internet governance. One speaker called for a single, open, free and global Internet as being essential for harnessing the social and economic potential of the Internet. Some stressed the need to implement effective mechanisms with an enhanced role for Governments in international Internet governance. Several participants urged that differing views on Internet governance should not inhibit discussion on the ways to harness the positive impacts that the Internet could have on development.

14. Attention was also drawn to the secretariat's work on the mapping of international Internet public policy issues. In that regard, some delegates stated that although the mapping exercise identified the existence of mechanisms that addressed international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, it also acknowledged the absence of mechanisms for a wide range of international Internet public policy issues, as well as international legal frameworks to implement existing regulations.

15. The participants referred to a number of recent events and initiatives, including: the NETmundial Conference, held in Brazil in April 2014; the Conference of the UNESCO Internet Study, entitled "CONNECTing the dots: options for future action", held in Paris in March 2015, and its report, which would be transmitted as an input to the overall review; the resolution entitled "Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development", adopted at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference of 2014; and the ongoing efforts of action line facilitators to create a conceptual reference point for the sustainable development goals and the World Summit on the Information Society action lines. The World Summit Stocktaking Platform was also referred to in that context.

16. Participants stated that the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit was the responsibility of all stakeholders and described the efforts of United Nations agencies, Governments and other stakeholders to implement the objectives of the Summit within their areas of responsibility and capabilities. Several participants were of the view that the outcomes of the Summit had led to increased cooperation and dialogue between stakeholders, including Governments, the private sector, civil society entities and the academic and technical communities. That development was generally welcomed as a contributing factor towards enhancing the contribution of ICTs to development. Other speakers recognized that previous events on the 10-year review of the World Summit had been open and inclusive platforms, and noted that the overall review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit should continue to take into account the contributions of all stakeholders.

Ten-year review report

17. The report of the UNCTAD secretariat, *Implementing World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes: A Ten-Year Review*, was welcomed by most Governments and other stakeholders as a comprehensive, thorough and balanced analysis of developments in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, the evidence in which would provide a valuable resource to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly. Many representatives welcomed the way in which the report drew on extensive submissions and contributions by United Nations agencies, Governments and other stakeholders, together with other evidence. Some participants stated that the report did not reflect sufficiently the view that little or no progress had been made in the area of enhanced cooperation. In particular, some delegates indicated that enhanced cooperation, as reflected in the Tunis Agenda, still remained an unfulfilled aspect and that it was necessary to identify ways to advance it in the post-2015 development agenda.

18. It was also suggested that there was a need for clear recommendations and focus on developing countries and their post-2015 needs. Some participants highlighted the need for prioritizing ICTs in international cooperation between developed and developing countries, in particular, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. The importance of financing mechanisms was also particularly stressed. In that regard, some participants referred to the significant cost that investing in ICTs and their enabling structures constituted for developing countries. Some delegates expressed the need for recommendations on ways in which to enhance financing for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and to ensure that robust financial and technical assistance mechanisms were established to enable developing countries to fully implement ICTs so as to suitably address their development needs. They added that that aspect should be considered in the future of the World Summit.

19. Following the substantive discussion, the Commission decided to transmit the report through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly as an input to its overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. That decision was reflected in the draft resolution on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (see chap. I.A, draft resolution I).

20. Delegations were invited to provide, in writing, their observations made during the discussion. Those observations can be found at the website of the Commission, together with the full transcript of the session.[a]

[a] See http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=606.